



# BIRDS OF BATTERY PARK CITY 2020 CALENDAR



Battery Park  
City Authority



# JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Lunar New Year

## Brant

**Scientific name: *Branta bernicla***

A long-distance migrant, traveling in flocks, Brant breed in the high Arctic tundra and can be observed wintering along the Atlantic coast. Smaller and more compact than the Canada Goose, Brant will spend much of the winter in Battery Park City, foraging in flocks on the parks' lawns.



Brant photographed in  
Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Park





# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 ☾
2  Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7	8 ☾
9  ○	10	11	12	13	14  Valentine's Day	15 ☾
16	17  Presidents' Day	18	19	20	21	22
23  ●	24	25	26  Ash Wednesday	27	28	29

## Hermit Thrush

**Scientific name: *Catharus guttatus***

A short-distance migrant, known for its beautiful song, the Hermit Thrush is a regular winter resident across much of the country. It can be observed under hedges in BPC's gardens - even in colder months - combing the leaf litter for insects and berries.

The Hermit Thrush's reddish tail distinguishes it from similar species.







# MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 ☾	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 ◯	10	11	12	13	14
15 Daylight Saving Time Begins	16 ☾	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Vernal Equinox	20	21
22	23	24 ●	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Mallard female (top) and male (bottom)

**Scientific name: *Anas platyrhynchos***

A popular visitor of Rockefeller Park's Lily Pool for much of the year, this dabbling duck is a perennial favorite. The nesting, hatching and emergence of ducklings is an annual rite-of-spring for BPC. But please don't feed the ducks people food! It's harmful to their digestive systems and the Lily Pool has plenty of aquatic vegetation to feed them.









# APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 ☾	2	3	4
5  Palm Sunday	6	7  ○	8  Passover (begins at sundown)	9	10  Good Friday	11
12  Easter	13	14  ☾	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22  ● Earth Day	23  Ramadan (begins at sundown)	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## Northern Cardinal Scientific name: *Cardinalis cardinalis*

This popular and recognizable bird – seven states list it as their state bird – has been steadily extending its year-round range over the past decades. The male's all-over brilliant red makes it conspicuous both when trees are bare and in full leaf. If you hear a clear chipper call while walking through the parks of BPC, look around for this familiar red bird.



Northern Cardinal photographed  
in Teardrop Park





# MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Cinco de Mayo		☉		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day				☾		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					●	Eid al-Fitr (begins at sundown)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Memorial Day				☾	

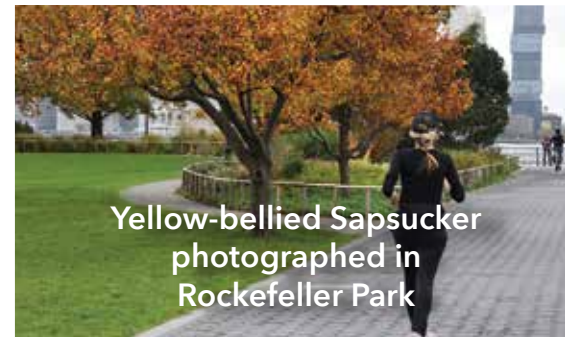
31

## Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Scientific name: *Sphyrapicus varius*

One can observe well-arranged rows of shallow holes in the bark of cedars of Lebanon in South Cove and the various pine trees in Rockefeller Park.

These have been made by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

This behavior provides two sources of food:  
sugary sap and insects below the bark's surface.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
photographed in  
Rockefeller Park





# JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day						Summer Solstice
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day						
28	29	30				

## Great Egret

Scientific name: *Ardea alba*

More commonly spotted in the marshes of the neighboring New Jersey Meadowlands and Jamaica Bay, these graceful hunters stalk the shallows, catching fish with lethal lunges of their yellow bills.



Great Egret photographed in Rockefeller Park







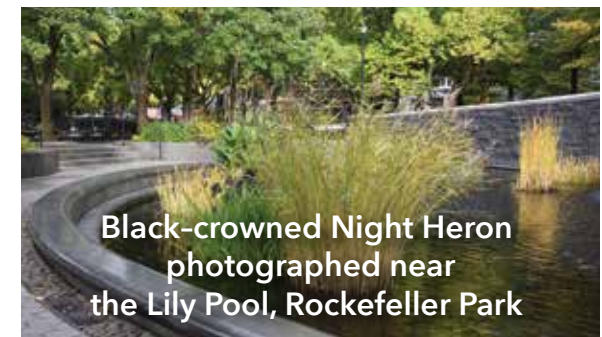
# JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5  ○	6	7	8	9	10	11
12  ◐	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 ●	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 ◐	28	29	30 Eid al-Adha (begins at sundown)	31	

## Black-crowned Night-Heron

Scientific name: *Nycticorax nycticorax*

As its name suggests, this bird-of-prey hunts at night for fish, frogs and other aquatic creatures. During the day, it can be easily spotted roosting – head tucked under a wing – in over-hanging branches. Our local visitors have been spotted near the Lily Pool and South Cove – leaving a conspicuous mess underneath. Watch your step!









# AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	○					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		◐				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		●				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		◐				
30	31	<div><div>American Goldfinch</div><div>Scientific name: <i>Spinus tristis</i></div><div>Typically sighted in the “wild area” of South Cove and the gardens of Rockefeller Park, American Goldfinch pairs wait until mid-summer to nest, when these kinds of plantings provide food as they go to seed.</div></div>				







# SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Labor Day					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	Rosh Hashanah (begins at sundown)	26
27	28	Autumnal Equinox	30			
Yom Kippur (begins at sundown)						

## Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Scientific name: **Archilochus colubris**

The Eastern U.S.'s only breeding hummingbird, this impressive migrant travels between Canada and Central America. Attracted to the color orange, they can be observed feeding on nectar at the trumpet vine trellises located at either end of South Cove, especially in September when the height of migration is timed with the plant's full blooming.









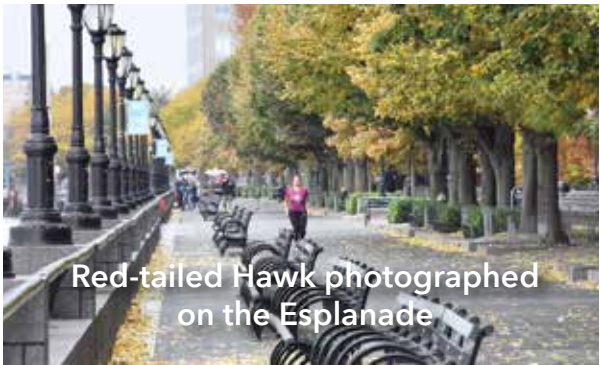
# OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						Halloween

## Red-tailed Hawk

Scientific name: *Buteo jamaicensis*

Normally suited for open areas where it can soar while hunting prey, this large raptor has adapted to city dwelling, especially in parks with plenty of pigeons and squirrels for food!



Red-tailed Hawk photographed on the Esplanade







# NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Veterans Day	19	20	21 Diwali
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30					

## Wild Turkey

**Scientific name: Meleagris gallopavo**

More common than people – especially city dwellers – may think these foragers can be found on lawns like those in Wagner Park. Native to the New World, this domesticated bird is the obvious November star!



Wild Turkey photographed in  
Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Park





# DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	☾			Hanukkah (begins at sundown)		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	●					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	☾ Winter Solstice				Christmas Day	Kwanzaa Begins
27	28	29	30	31		
		○		New Year's Eve		

## Blue Jay

Scientific name: *Cyanocitta cristata*

If you hear a jeering repetitive call during your morning stroll or run through the parks of BPC, look around for this conspicuous large songbird. Though technically migratory, Blue Jays are found throughout the eastern U.S. as year-round residents - meanwhile, large flocks may be observed migrating along the Atlantic coast. Their migratory behavior is one of the great ornithological mysteries.



**The parks of Battery Park City** offer excellent bird watching of both year-round resident birds and the less common migratory birds that come through in spring and fall. The migration of birds is one of Earth's most fascinating natural occurrences, and since BPC is right on a major migration flyway – the Hudson River – we are fortunate to have a first-hand view!

The gardens of BPC are particularly helpful to migratory birds. Maintained organically and pesticide free, these plantings offer a food source and cover. Song birds – like warblers and thrushes – migrate at night, landing in this oasis of green space at first light, exhausted from their overnight journey and in need of food and a place to rest safely before the next leg of their journey.

The Battery Park City Authority Parks Programming Department has offered bird watching programs since 2000, but people have been observing and identifying birds in the parks of Battery Park City since they first opened.

Parks Programming maintains a Life List of Birds spotted in or from BPC, and the list currently stands at 102 different species identified. Most recently, organized bird watching takes place at BPCA's Go Fish! festivals celebrating life of the Hudson River Estuary, as part of Earth Day celebration outreach with local schools, and at children's nature programs, such as Children's Gardening, Birdwatching Club, and Migration Club. To find out more, email [info@bpca.ny.gov](mailto:info@bpca.ny.gov).

BPC's other celebrated migratory creature:  
**Monarch Butterflies!**

Unlike other insects in temperate climates, Monarchs cannot survive a cold winter. During the summer breeding season, Monarch adults live for 2-6 weeks. However, in the late summer, something amazing happens: the adult butterflies that hatch migrate south – sometimes as far as 3,000 miles! No other butterfly in the world migrates this way.

East of the Rocky Mountains, Monarchs fly to roost in fir tree forests in the mountains of Mexico. Seasonal changes – day length and temperature – drive the fall migration with these butterflies arriving at their winter roosts by the end of November. After spending the winter in their roosting spots, Monarchs react to rising spring temperatures and longer days by taking flight back north, following the re-emergence of milkweed plants. Living as long as the end of April, this generation of butterflies continues to mate and lay eggs on host plants, most making it as far as the southern United States – but some may make it as far north as southern Iowa. It is the future generations of these adult butterflies that continue the journey north as far as southern Canada – the summer breeding season happening along the way.

After 2-3 summer generations, the cycle begins again with a new fall migration. Since the caterpillars of Monarch Butterflies must eat the leaves of milkweed (*Asclepias*), this plant is crucial to their survival. The parks of BPC are intentionally planted with these, and on peak migration days, hundreds of these majestic butterflies can be observed right here!





## Our Mission

Charged with developing and maintaining a well-balanced community on the Lower West Side of Manhattan, the Battery Park City Authority has a robust environmental legacy. Sustainability initiatives can be found in all of its operations today, including maintenance, horticulture, programming, capital planning, finance and administration.

## Sustainability

On Earth Day 2019, BPCA launched its Zero Waste Initiative, a waste-reduction program that includes staff education, regular reporting and review of vendor practices, and pledges from BPCA staff to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Focusing initially on BPCA's 75 Battery Place location, the goal is to decrease office waste going to landfill by 90% over the next 12 months, to learn from this experience and expand zero waste practices to other BPCA spaces and eventually the community.

## Composting

BPCA has a longstanding and growing composting program. In 2019, more than 35,000 lbs. of food and plant waste was composted. Vegetable and fruit waste is collected from local stores, staff and residents, along with coffee grounds from neighborhood shops. The compost produced from these inputs is used to nourish and sustain soil across the parks of Battery Park City. BPCA launched the neighborhood's first building-specific composting program on Earth Day 2019 with Gateway Plaza, Battery Park City's largest residential complex.



Female Mallard and duckling photographed at the Irish Hunger Memorial



# Keep Wildlife Wild!

Feeding wildlife can lead to human injury, animal overpopulation, and disease.

Feeding wildlife on a regular basis can cause:

- Poor nutrition
- Pollution of waters
- Delay or elimination of migration
- Overcrowding of birds
- Spreading of disease
- Unnatural behavior
- Weakening of the gene pool



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Magnolia Warbler on cover  
photographed in South Cove